



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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July 19, 1983

Dear Dr. McDonald:

As you know, this Office is currently engaged in the preparation of volumes on Vietnam 1955-1968 for inclusion in the Foreign Relations of the United States series. In connection with this work we would appreciate access to certain CIA classified histories, namely:

Allen Welsh Dulles as Director of Central Intelligence, 26 February 1953 - 29 November 1961. 5 vols., History No. DCI-2. July 1973. (S)

Vietnam and the Office of National Estimates, 1951-1964. History No. 026, June 1967. (TS)

Southeast Asia Communications Activity (SEACA) & Its Support to Vietnam, 1951-1964. History No. 034, November 1966. (S)

The Vietnam Coup d'Etat of November 1963 and Its Aftermath. History No. 057, November 1966. (S)

I enclose a copy of the list of histories upon which this request is based.

I understand that your Office is presently working on the history of McCone's directorate and other histories that pertain to Vietnam in the early sixties. Would we be able to consult these histories as well?

The historians working on the Vietnam project, all of whom have TOP SECRET clearances, include the following:

David M. Baehler
Suzanne E. Coffman
Edward C. Keefer
Ronald D. Landa
David W. Mabon
Charles S. Sampson
Louis J. Smith

Messrs. Keefer, Mabon, and Sampson also have special intelligence clearance.

Dr. J. Kenneth McDonald,
Historian,
Central Intelligence Agency,
Washington, D.C.

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Any number of the above group, depending on what is convenient for you, would be able to come to the Agency to consult the material.

This request is confined to permission to examine the studies. Any use of information contained in them would be subject to separate clearance and declassification review in accordance with established procedures.

In the course of preparing the volumes on Vietnam for 1955-1960, Mr. Keefer was given permission to read at the Agency some of the other published histories and cables specifically identified in them. This was a great help to him in preparing editorial notes as supplements to the documents to be printed. With only slight modifications, these notes were cleared for publication by CIA and the Department of State.

Should you wish to discuss this request, please contact my Deputy, Neal Petersen (632-2033) or Ronald Landa (632-8979).

Sincerely,

Neal H. Petersen

for

William Z. Slany
The Historian, Office of the Historian
Bureau of Public Affairs

Enclosure:

As stated

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